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In re Application of: BLOTSKY, Roger D. et al.  
Serial No.: 10/725,729  
Response to Office Action

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a mineral composition that has a low pH ~~and that produces unexpectedly minimal irritation when contacted with the dermis in a liquid or solid form~~, said method comprising the steps of

(a) ~~selecting~~ providing a clay soil having

- (i) a selected minimal concentration of cadmium, lead, arsenic, and mercury,
- (ii) at least eight macro mineral elements,
- (iii) at least sixty micro mineral elements,
- (iv) at least ten rare earth elements,
- (v) at least four percent by weight calcium,
- (vi) at least four percent by weight silica; and,

(b) processing said clay soil by

- (i) admixing said soil with water and at ~~last~~ least one acid to produce a slurry,
- (ii) allowing particles to settle from said slurry to produce a liquid containing at least eight macro mineral elements and at least sixty micro mineral elements,
- (iii) concentrating said liquid to increase the concentration of mineral elements in said liquid to greater than 4% by weight.

2. (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising a composition including

- (a) at least eight macro mineral elements;
- (b) at least sixty micro mineral elements; and,
- (c) at least ten rare earth elements;

said article of manufacture having a pH of less than four.

3. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising drying the concentrated liquid to form a powder mineral element composition.

4. (New) The method of Claim 3, wherein drying comprises spray drying the concentrated liquid.

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5. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pH of the mineral composition is less than 4.5.
6. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the macro mineral elements are calcium, chlorine, magnesium, manganese, phosphorous, potassium, silicon or sodium.
7. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the micro mineral elements are aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, bismuth, boron, bromine, cadmium, cerium, cesium, chromium, cobalt, copper, dysprosium, erbium, europium, fluorine, gadolinium, gold, hafnium, holmium, iodine, indium, iridium, iron, lanthanum, lead, lithium, lutetium, mercury, molybdenum, neodymium, nickel, niobium, palladium, platinum, praseodymium, rhenium, rhodium, rubidium, ruthenium, samarium, scandium, selenium, silver, strontium, sulfur, tantalum, terbium, tellurium, thallium, thorium, thulium, tin, titanium, tungsten, vanadium, ytterbium, yttrium, zinc or zirconium.
8. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the rare earth elements are metallic elements with atomic numbers ranging from 58 to 71.
9. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the water is purified by reverse osmosis.
10. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acid is an edible acid.
11. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the edible acid is citric acid.
12. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the edible acid is phosphoric acid.
13. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the liquid is concentrated by reverse osmosis.